



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Worker Education and Training Program

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/wetp/home.htm>

MINORITY WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM

Program Mandates:

Congress authorized the Worker Education and Training Program (WETP) with the passage of Section 126 of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. SARA established an assistance program for training and education of workers engaged in activities related to hazardous waste removal, containment and emergency response. Grant recipients are non-profit organizations with demonstrated access to appropriate worker populations and experience in implementing and operating worker health and safety education training programs.

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SARA provides for improvements in safety measures associated with remediation efforts through the WETP of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), an institute of the National Institutes of Health. The WETP receives direct funding for managing the HWETP and the MWTP. The WETP was given responsibility for establishing and managing the BMWTP through Interagency Agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Program Description:

• **Minority Worker Training Program (MWTP)** –focuses on delivering comprehensive training to disadvantaged urban young adults in order to prepare them for employment in the construction and environmental cleanup fields. For the past eight years in urban communities throughout the U.S., the MWTP has successfully trained young minority adults via five awardees: the Center to Protect Workers' Rights, Xavier University, National Puerto Rican Forum, Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. The main goal of this program is to provide young people of color, age 18-25, with a vigorous training program that eventually leads to productive employment. The MWTP expanded its reach with the start of the **Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program (BMWTP)**. The BMWTP broadens the MWT Program to provide comprehensive training and to foster economic and environmental restoration to disadvantaged residents in communities impacted by brownfields.

Program Accomplishments:

- Since the inception of the program, 2,628 young minority adults have been successfully trained in worker health and safety for construction and environmental cleanup work. 1,686 of these trainees are employed - representing an overall job placement rate of 64%.
- In 2002-2003, these five programs trained 310 students in 11 cities: Baltimore, MD; Chicago, IL; Exton/Philadelphia, PA; Houston, TX; New Orleans and Baton Rouge, LA; New York City, NY; Oakland, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, CA; and Washington, DC. 190 of these trainees are now gainfully employed, primarily in the construction and environmental fields with wages ranging from \$6.50 to \$34.00 per hour. Each year approximately 200 or more courses are offered to train these workers that are specific to the workforce needs in their geographic area; however, hazardous materials and waste training remained the primary core curriculum.

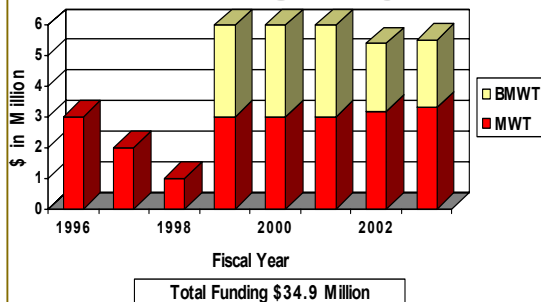
Emerging Issues/Future Directions:

- The WETP will continue to work with the EPA and other Federal, state and local partners to address Brownfields health and safety issues related to cleanup and training in support of rebuilding communities harmed by contaminated sites, disinvestment, and lack of adequate job training.
- The WETP will continue to develop training approaches such as life skills that are culturally sensitive and address the needs of the minority workforce. Life Skills training is a supportive service tailored to the individual's needs. The services might include remedial mathematics tutoring, budget counseling and cash management, life situational counseling and job readiness skills. These help prepare the students to take apprenticeship and employment examinations, as well as pass the environmental examinations leading to certifications in lead abatement, asbestos abatement, and hazardous waste operations.

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Funding History



Current MWTP and BMWTP Awardees:

- Center to Protect Workers' Rights (CPWR)
- Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund (L-ACG)
- University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)
- National Puerto Rican Forum (NPRF)
- Xavier University of Louisiana (XU)

The Development of the Brownfields Minority Worker Training Program (BMWTP):

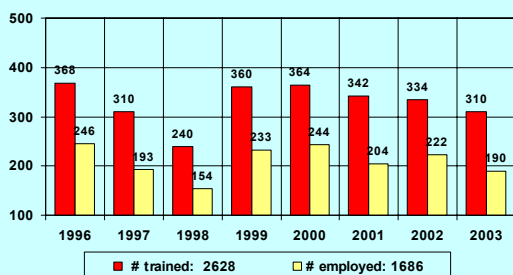
•The NIEHS BMWTP, which began in 1998, broadens the MWT program to communities impacted by brownfields. The funding for this program is provided by interagency agreement with the U.S. EPA which is approximately \$3,000,000 each year.

•The BMWTP has reached almost 2,000 trainees since it began and continues to positively change the lives of the trainees and their families. Trainees prior to entering this program were all un-employed or chronically under employed. Now they are not only providing for their families by earning \$8.50 to \$34.00 per hour, they are giving back to their communities in taxes and community service.

•In 2002-2003, the five BMWTP awardees provided in depth life skills and environmental training to 344 local residents in 15 Brownfields communities. 247 graduates are now employed, a 72% employment rate. 223 courses were conducted resulting in approximately 118,345 contact hours of training.

MWTP Job Placement Rates

(Overall Job Placement Rate – 64%)



MWTP Total Training (2002-2003)

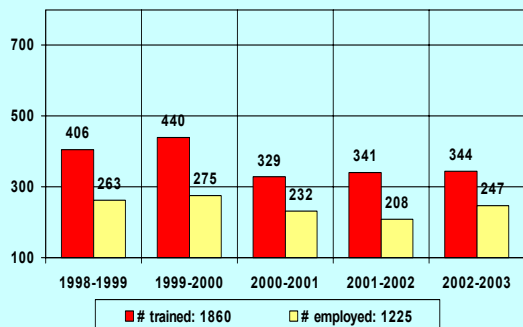
AWARDEE	COURSES COMPLETED	STUDENTS TRAINED	CONTACT HOURS
UMDNJ	22	35	19,278
L-AGC	65	111	34,717
CPWR	55	80	40,192
NPRF	30	58	6,099
XU	31	26	10,016
TOTAL	203	310	110,302

Communications Tools:

The NIEHS National Clearinghouse for Worker Safety and Health Training Newsbrief – The E-Newsbrief is a free weekly newsletter focusing on new developments in the world of worker health and safety. Each issue provides summaries of the latest worker health and safety news from newspapers, magazines, journals, government reports, and the Web, along with links to the original documents. The Newsbrief is found at <http://www.wetp.org/wetp/index.cfm>.

BMWTP Job Placement Rates

(Overall Job Placement Rate – 66%)



Maintaining the Gold Standard for Hazardous Materials Training:

The Gold Standard in training means developing and delivering training events of the highest quality possible, using the most advanced adult educational materials, exercises and techniques; items that are reviewed and evaluated by technical experts; that are kept up-to-date or "evergreen;" and that are carried out in appropriate learning environments with appropriate student/teacher ratios. NIEHS and its awardees are committed to maintaining this high standard because it saves lives and prevents injuries.